

1 **MR. DAMIEN COTTON**

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3 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mr. Damien Cotton.

4 MR. COTTON: Good afternoon. First of all, I'd like
5 to say thank you to the Commissioners and the audience for
6 letting me come down here to speak today. My name is Damien
7 Cotton. I have lived in Gary all my life. In the 22 years I
8 have been there, I have seen Gary come from having a little
9 something, to having actually nothing. Since the casinos have
10 come, they have been providing as far as pavement for the roads,
11 more security, police officers and also job opportunities for a
12 lot of what I can say now employees.

13 As far as me, I have an associate's degree in
14 computer information systems. As you all know, there really
15 aren't any computer jobs in Gary. A lot of them are in Chicago
16 or should I say, in another city, none in my city close by. This
17 job has given me the opportunity to have money in my pocket, also
18 help my mom take care of the bills.

19 As far as other employees, those single parents, it
20 provides them medical attention and dental care for their
21 children that they can't provide without this job. It also helps
22 me a lot. Now, a lot of people work on the boat, as far as
23 dealers, they can make that a career because it pays them well.
24 A person like me is just a foot in the door. As far as a lot of
25 people in my position, if they would like, they can move up and
26 find a better job. Really that's all I have to say.

27 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you. It was very well said.

28 MR. COTTON: Thank you.

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